

Appendix F Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC) Memorandum Regarding Preferred Seabird Action Alternative

The memorandum from Kitty Simonds, Executive Director, WPFMC, to William Robinson, Regional Administrator, PIR, is reproduced on the following page. This document confirms the Council's intention to conform to the USFWS's position with regard to the use of thawed, blue-dyed bait and strategic offal discards in recommending its Preferred Alternative for the seabird action.



WESTERN
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COUNCIL

NMFS/PIRO
Received

JAN 24 2005

MEMORANDUM

To: Bill Robinson
From: Kitty Simonds
CC: Council members

Date: January 14, 2005

Subject: Preferred alternative for additional seabird mitigation measures

Following review of comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement received from the Department of the Interior following the Council's 124th meeting, and discussion with your office, those comments will be treated as a response to the Council's questions regarding the appropriate use of blue dyed bait and strategic offal discards as seabird mitigation measures.

Thus the Council's preferred alternative for additional seabird mitigation measures is as follows:

A) All deep setting Hawaii-based longline vessels must either side-set, or use a tori line plus the currently required measures (line shooter with weighted branch lines, blue dyed thawed bait and strategic offal discards) when fishing north of 23° - with the requirement to use strategic offal discards modified to require that vessel operators use them only when seabirds are present;

AND

B) All shallow setting Hawaii-based longline vessels must either side-set, or use a tori line plus the currently required measures (night setting, blue dyed thawed bait and strategic offal discards) wherever they fish - with the requirement to use strategic offal discards modified to require that vessel operators use them only when seabirds are present.

Please contact Paul Dalzell or Marcia Hamilton of my staff if you have any questions.